(c) what are the Oil fields that will be allotted to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A total of 87 bids have been received for development of small sized fields.

(c) Proposals for award of contracts in [illegible] of the small-sized fields are under [illegible]ion.

British firms for implementing southern gas grid project

2898. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether British Firms have shown their keen interest on implementing southern gas grid projects;

(b) if so, whether any agreement in this regard has been signed with UK firms; and

(c) what are the other projects where UK has agreed to help India in setting up the gas projects in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A proposal for a joint venture project with British Gas for the supply of gas in Bombay City is under consideration of the Gas Authority of India Ltd.

Oil-exploration by International Companies

2899. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to offer for the first time 35 Blocks for Oil-exploration for surveying of potential oil fields, to international companies;

(b) if so, what are the details of Blocks that are offered for the oil exploration;

(c) whether any agreements with the international companies have been reached;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when the oil exploration survey by international companies will start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Government had, in September, 1993, offered 35 blocks for carrying out speculative geophysical and other types of surveys. Of these 35 blocks, 21 are offshore and 14 are onshore.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The work will start after the contracts are concluded through negotiations.

Private sectors in LPG/Kerosene Marketing

2900. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news-item which appeared in the Statesman Dated 4th October, 1993 that cooking gas (LPG), the house wife's dream fuel, would easily become available in the next few years with the introduction of parallel marketing scheme for LPG and kerosene which will show definite results in the next two to three years;

(b) if so, what are the names of the private sector companies which are going to be entrusted with the work; and

(c) what will be the cost of the LPG cylinders after its introduction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Under the parallel marketing system private parties have been allowed to market Kerosene and LPG using/setting up their own bottling and distribution net-work for sale of such products at market determined prices under their own terms, for which they do not need to obtain any licence from the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. However, they are required to obtain necessary clearances from statutory authorities, local bodies, etc., as applicable. A number of private parties have issued advertisements offering to import and sell kerosene and LPG. The prices will be determined of market forces and competition.

राजस्थान में गैस भण्डारों के स्थान और उनका उपयोग

2901. श्री शिवचरण सिंह: क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) देश में प्राकृतिक गैस के कितने भंडार हैं और राजस्थान में किन-किन स्थानों पर गैस-भण्डारों का पता लगाया गया है;

(ख) राजस्थान के रामगढ़ घोटारु क्षेत्र से निकाली गैस का उपयोग किस तरह किया जाता है;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि गैस पर आधारित ऊर्जा उत्पादन के लिए गैस की जरूरत पड़ रही है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस उद्देश्य की पूर्ति के लिए गैस जारी न किये जाने के क्या कारण हैं; और

(ङ) घोटारु क्षेत्र से निकलने वाली गैस का उपयोग कब से शुरू किए जाने की संभावना है; यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (कैप्टन सतीश शर्मा): (क) राजस्थान राज्य के तनोत-डंडेवाला, घोटारु, बखरी-तिब्बा, मनहेरा तिब्बा, खरता और बंकिया में गैस क्षेत्रों का पता चला है।

(ख) से (ङ) गैस में बहुत कम हाइड्रोकार्बन तत्व के कारण इसके उपयोग में समस्याओं की वजह से फिलहाल घोटारु से गैस उत्पादित करने की कोई योजना नहीं है।

Selection of Companies for Developing Oil and Gas Field

2902. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the process of selecting companies for developing oil and gas fields has been completed;

(b) if so, which are the companies finalised and what are the terms and conditions on which selection has been done; and

(c) by when the work is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Proposals for award of contracts for the small-sized fields and in respect of the medium-sized fields are under finalisation.

(c) Work will commence after the signing of the contracts.

Alleged Messing up of Selection of Pipe Coaters by ONGC

2903. SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) has jeopardised the implementation of second South Bassein-Hazira gas pipeline by messing up the selection of pipe-coaters to accommodate a non-responsive bidder affiliated to an influential media growth;